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ABNEGATION OF FRENCH AND ENGLISH CITIZENS OVERCAME DIFFICULTIES, SAYS MARQUIS

Prepared Now, French Official Declares, and Anxiety Is Now Shifting to Adversaries—Submarine Warfare Will Not Open Ports, Chambrun Says—Review of Second Year.

Paris, July 29.—"The second year of the war ends with anxiety shifting from the group of the Entente Powers to that of our adversaries who are now obliged to meet a general combined offensive on every front," said Marquis de Chambrun, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies in summarizing the military situation for The Associated Press at the close of the war's second year.

"While French, British and Russian preparations for the second year of the war were in progress, a crisis of exhaustion is fast arising for the Austrians and Germans. Our adversaries thought it would be impossible for us to prepare, and certainly during the first year of the war there were difficulties that had to be overcome. We are proud to say that this was accomplished even while our own shores were being invaded by the German invasion. Thanks to the patriotism of the country and the abnegation shown by all classes in France and England; thanks also to the campaign in both countries for more cannon and more ammunition, industrial action was everywhere multiplied and General Joffre was able to say in an Order of the Day to the army at Verdun, 'We have munitions in abundance.'"

"The Austrians and Germans resorted to submarine warfare which I will not attempt to qualify. It may continue to work harm in a practical form, but it will not open ports nor further the commercial aims and needs of the Central Empire, now effectively blockaded, nor will it restore to Germany her lost colonies. "The Russians are continuing their work successfully on the Eastern front. They have again invaded Bukovina and are pushing forward in the region of Luth and into the Carpathians, while Grand Duke Nicholas is advancing victoriously in the Caucasus.

"The closer one examines the situation the more manifest becomes the anticipated ascendancy of the Allies, increasing as time goes on because of their unrestricted resources and unshaken confidence in victory."

From various critics and experts on military affairs expressions have been obtained from which the military situation, according to the French view, may be summarized as follows:

The extent of the difficulties of the Central empire does not even now appear from the state of the war. From a geographical standpoint, but has shown itself in the changed tactics in evidence and is becoming obvious in the altered map. The operations of the Franco-British armies, outnumbered in men and guns during the first six months, saved France by sheer heroism, but could not and the war could only prolong it and gain time. The Russians pushed into East Prussia, conquered Bukovina, invaded Galicia, crossed the Carpathians and even threatened Silesia, but exhausted their armament in April, 1915, and lacked even the essentials for defense. The Germans knew it would be impossible to have caught up in nine months with the English 45 years' preparations and felt themselves free, dealing with France, to turn upon the Russian armies. Nine divisions transported from the Franco-British front reinforced the Austrians, and the offensive against the Austrians began in May. By the end of July Przemyel and Lemberg had been retaken and the Russians were considering the abandonment of Warsaw and the line of the Vistula. Short even of rifles, many of Emperor Nicholas' troops defended themselves with clubs during the long retreat in which was accomplished the second objective of the war, the continuity of their line being everywhere maintained, as well as the integrity of the Russian armies.

The battle of Arras in June, 1915, was considered to have proved the Allies man for man, able to beat the Germans in the offensive, other things being equal, but the munitions and artillery of the opposing forces were not yet equal. The transformation of field tactics as the war progressed multiplied the need for heavy guns and powerful projectiles to break through concrete-armored lines. This transformation thus increased the superiority of belligerents who had the initial advantage in preparation, forcing their adversaries to a greater expenditure of munitions than their industries were as yet able to produce, while they themselves were able to shower the Russian lines with the biggest of shells.

The end of the first year of the war was the beginning of the second crisis for the Allies—a munitions crisis, aggravated by a diplomatic crisis requiring new enterprises that drew on their main forces. The landing of the French and British at the Dardanelles in April had weakened the Allies elsewhere, reducing the number of reserves on the main front, and if it did not modify their general plan it obviously made the elaboration of new plans difficult and hampered their movements.

At the same time the enigmatic situation in the Orient became serious, Greece refusing the compensation of territory for territorial concessions to Bulgaria which might have facilitated a union of the Balkan States. The situation in Persia and Asia Minor following the entry of Turkey into the war had developed a menace to Great Britain in the Far East. The favorable impression produced by the advance north of Arras had diminished in the absence of further operations and there was a notable absence of news favorable to the Allies.

"More cannon, more ammunition," was the comment of the French people on the difficulties that beset them. Women and girls joined in the efforts of the trained mechanics brought back from the armies to the forge and the lathe, and the curve of munitions production took a sharp upward turn.

The industrial efforts of the Allies were given the required time by the resistance of the Russian armies. The

Germans advanced, but they could neither destroy nor dislocate the Russian forces. Despite the formidable effort of the Central Powers Dvinsk held out, and winter was upon Field Marshal von Hindenburg's armies on the Russian campaign unfinished. But he had terminated them. It was too late to turn against the Allies in the West. Grand Duke Nicholas had won for the French and the British the entire Fall and Winter in which to continue their preparation.

While intensifying to the utmost their production of arms and ammunition, the Allies began early in the second year of hostilities, with the visit of Field Marshal Earl Kitchener to France the series of conferences that was finally to co-ordinate their military effort.

Their diplomatic action, however, did not as yet reflect the same unity of purpose. No parallel result was obtained either at Athens or Sofia in negotiations regarding territory in Macedonia offered to Bulgaria, and there appeared to be a divergence of views among the Allies as to further action. Negotiations were still in progress when Turkey ceded the De-degatch-Mustapha Pasha Railroad, with part of Adrianople, to Bulgaria, foreshadowing the latter's action against the Allies.

Meanwhile, the Germans and Austrians, after crossing the Vistula and occupying Russian Poland, transported part of the troops from the Russian front to the Save and the Danube for another offensive against Serbia, which after her victory over the Austrians had only 250,000 effective men left to oppose them.

The French, in the Champagne and in the Artois in September, gained considerable territory and made important captures in prisoners and material, but as in the preceding offensive north of Arras in June this movement failed of decisive results because of the narrowness of the front of the attack and the impossibility to push artillery preparation deeply enough into the German lines. That the offensive was considered to have confirmed the superiority of the French soldier in attack in nowise altered the general situation, just the further complicated by the mobilization of the Bulgarian army menacing the Serbians, which threatened the eventual extension of the war to the Far East by the junction of the armies of the Central Empire, Bulgarians and Turks.

The Greek army was mobilized immediately but King Constantine refused to sanction the government's policy of intervention in favor of Serbia, Greece's ally, and forced Premier Venizelos to resign. The Allies heavily engaged in the Dardanelles now had to face either the eventualty of the crushing of Serbia and an unopposed junction of the armies of the Teutonic powers with those of the Bulgarian-Turkish coalition, or the additional burden of a campaign in the Balkans. The Dardanelles expedition had accomplished no appreciable result and the need of saving Serbia was more urgent than the opening of the Straits.

There still appeared to be a certain lack of unanimity among the Allies in the Gallipoli Peninsula and Saloniki. The landing at Saloniki was decided upon, however, and consented to by the Greek government before the resignation of Premier Venizelos, it began in early October. But it was too late to save Serbia, attacked by the Bulgarians on October 7, when the Germans and Austrians under Field Marshal von Mackensen already had taken Belgrade. Though they fought heroically, the Serbians were overwhelmed by attacks from two sides and driven into Albania, while the armies of the Central Powers formed a junction with the Bulgarians and opened the route to Constantinople.

New difficulties continued to develop for the Allies, however. In Mesopotamia the Turks stopped the advance of General Townshend's forces within twenty miles of Bagdad and drove him back to Kut-el-Amara, besieging him there. In Persia the gendarmerie revolted against the government, creating fresh embarrassments for the Russians. In the Balkans, after the complete conquest of Serbia and the occupation of a considerable portion of Albania, the Austrians invaded Montenegro, and before the end of January all the Balkan peninsula with the exception of Greece, Rumania and a little corner of Albania was in the hands of the group of Central Empires.

That marked the limit of their successes. The advantage that time had gained for the Allies began to tell. General Ivanoff, commanding the Russian army in Volhynia and Belarussia, continued their offensive in January with the occupation of Czartorysk. Itself unimportant, the significance of this operation lay in the revelation it furnished of a refreshed and reinforced Russian army provided with new cannon, abundant supplies of projectiles and sufficient power to plow up German field defenses.

Of far greater significance was the advance in the Caucasus by Grand Duke Nicholas, forcing the fall of Erzerum accomplishing the occupation of Kermanshah and, in the military view here, virtually eliminating Turkey as a factor in the European war, beside re-establishing the prestige of the allies in Persia. Instead of a reservoir of men upon which they might draw to fill the void caused by eighteen months of heavy warfare, the Central Powers found at Constantinople only an additional drain upon their resources. The Russian advance not only meant the recall of Turkish divisions that were expected to help the Germans, Austrians and Bulgarians against the Allies at Saloniki, but German and Austrian troops were sent with them to aid the defeated Ottoman forces in Armenia. Yet Trebizond fell after Erzerum. Mush was occupied and the conquest of Armenia was nearly complete. The diversion in the East had failed to break the cordon of steel, and in February the coalition of the Central Empires was facing a crisis of greater gravity than any that had threat-

ened the Entente Allies. The Bulgarian army was almost barefoot, the Turks, excepting at Kut-el-Amara, were everywhere defeated, and the wastage of the long and unsuccessful effort to take Dvinsk had weakened von Hindenburg so that he was incapable of undertaking a general offensive on the Russian front. The Austrians, left to themselves, had never succeeded and the maintenance of a large force before Saloniki was required to hold Serbia and prevent the invasion of Bulgaria. The interior situation of Germany was officially admitted to be grave.

In this embarrassment, as the French observers view it, the Central Powers ardently desiring peace, and urgently needing success to raise the spirits of the German people, depressed as they were by protracted privations, looked to the French front and decided upon the adventure of Verdun.

The German plan seems originally to have been to concentrate artillery, munitions and men in such force over a limited length of front that the onslaught would be irresistible. They chose Verdun because the position of the ancient fortress was such that the defenders had their backs to the River Meuse on two sides and because success there would give the greatest possible prestige with neutral powers and the maximum comfort to their own people. It was also possible they knew what subsequent political events in France disclosed—that the defenses of Verdun were not, in view of the field tactics of this war, as strong as other parts of the front. It is the belief of military experts that the Germans hoped to break through the front there and destroy the French armies. It was imperative that success be rapid, according to this view, and when, after three days, the advance was checked in the region of Douaumont the project had failed. General Pétain, as an official citation later revealed, had time to "re-establish a delicate situation." There was no longer hope of breaking through the French front.

Every yard of ground gained by the Germans before Verdun since February 24 has been at an extremely heavy sanguinary cost. The continuing of so expensive and fruitless an operation has puzzled the strategists. It has been advanced that the Germans persisted with the object of exhausting the French forces and preventing an offensive by the Allies elsewhere. If that end was in view the successes of the Allies in the Battle of the Somme show it was not attained.

The Battle of Verdun, if ordered with the intention of interfering with the offensive plans of the Allies, in nowise diminished the chances of carrying them out, whatever the fate of the discarded fortress, it having now no more significance apart from the prestige of the name than any other point along the front. Local success there has long been discounted and, in military opinion can have no vital effect, while the attempting of a wastage process by the Central Powers at this stage of the war is held to be illusory and certainly enormously costly. The Central Empires have no longer reserves in such numbers that they can afford to launch them against the Allies in the mere hope of inflicting more damage than they suffer.

The heroic defense of Verdun, on the other hand, has been for the Allies one of the notable developments of the war. It held German reserves there in such numbers as to put an end to the shifting of troops from front to front. It prevented the reinforcement of the Austrians, suffering from the loss of prisoners, with perhaps as many in casualties, to the armies under General Brusiloff. It obliged the Germans to prolong during five months a vast daily expenditure of projectiles that was expected to diminish only a few days, and has so drawn upon their reserves of munitions that in the Battle of the Somme they were able to reply to the French and British guns in the proportion of only one shot for three.

The successful defense of Verdun and the successful offensives of the Allies in the North of France and on the Western front show at the end of the second year of the war that the finally-prepared war map on which the German Chancellor held that the Allies ought to accept negotiations is undergoing singular modifications with the Russians occupying Bukovina and part of Galicia; the Italians recovering territory lost in the recent Austrian offensive and still in possession of the Isonzo region, and with the French and British in possession of more than 30 villages on the banks of the Somme that had been occupied by the Germans for 20 months and each of them transformed in the meantime into military fortresses.

The Allies have caught up with the advantage of the Central Powers in preparation and any further modifications of the respective positions of the contending forces, it is believed, must be a reconquest of invaded territory by the Allies.

The destruction of adversary forces is another and a far more difficult matter. In this war the end may be nearer than many hope or may yet be far distant. There are no bases on which to calculate the progress of military operations or the resistance of the belligerents, even when apparently doomed to defeat. What is clear is that the anticipated ascendancy of the Allies, arising from their unrestricted resources, appears to have been realized.

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National League. YESTERDAY'S RESULTS. No games were scheduled, all teams being in the East. STANDING OF THE CLUBS. Won. Lost. P.C. Brooklyn 52 34 .605 Boston 47 35 .573 Philadelphia 48 38 .558 New York 43 43 .500 Chicago 44 48 .478 Pittsburgh 39 47 .453 St. Louis 42 52 .442 Cincinnati 38 55 .409

American League. YESTERDAY'S RESULTS. St. Louis, 3; New York, 1 (first). St. Louis, 3; New York, 0 (second). Boston, 4; Detroit, 2. Washington, 2; Cleveland, 1. Chicago, 10; Philadelphia, 1 (first). Chicago, 7; Philadelphia, 0 (second). STANDING OF THE CLUBS. Won. Lost. P.C. Boston 52 34 .605 Chicago 54 32 .623 New York 53 32 .619 Cleveland 51 33 .604 Detroit 52 46 .528 Washington 48 45 .516 St. Louis 47 49 .490 Philadelphia 19 70 .212

American Association. YESTERDAY'S RESULTS. At Indianapolis, First game, R. H. E. Indianapolis 7 18 1 Louisville 5 4 2 Second game—Louisville, 9; Indianapolis, 6. Forfeited in the sixth inning. At Kansas City, First game, R. H. E. Minneapolis 3 5 4 Kansas City 9 18 2 Second game—R. H. E. Minneapolis 8 16 1 Kansas City 7 9 2

Southern Association. YESTERDAY'S RESULTS. At Nashville—R. H. E. Birmingham 9 16 2 Nashville 4 5 4 At Memphis—R. H. E. Memphis 6 10 0 New Orleans 0 3 1 No other games were scheduled. STANDING OF THE CLUBS. Won. Lost. P.C. Nashville 59 37 .615 Louisville 55 39 .586

Eastern League. YESTERDAY'S RESULTS. Bridgeport, 7; Springfield, 2 (st). Bridgeport, 2; Springfield, 1 (2nd). STANDING OF THE CLUBS. Won. Lost. P.C. Portland 59 21 .710 New London 49 22 .690 Worcester 48 32 .591 Springfield 41 35 .539 Lynn 40 38 .513 Lawrence 42 40 .512 New Haven 28 44 .389 Lowell 28 45 .384 Hartford 27 45 .376 Bridgeport 29 49 .373

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